

STATEMENT II

| Date as on | Sanctioned strength | Actual strength | Vacancies |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1st April, 1988 | 26 | 17 | 9 |
| 1st April, 1989 | 26 | 20 | 6 |
| 1st April, 1990 | 26 | 25 | 1 |
| 1st April, 1991 | 26 | 23 | 3 |

Cancellation of Right of Occupation and Continuation of Lessees in Lucknow, Kanpur and Meerut Cantonment Areas

397. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Defence Estates, Lucknow and the Government have received any representation during the past three months from the residents of Lucknow, Kanpur and Meerut cantonments for cancelling the right of occupation and continuation of lessees in the leasehold land premises where the lease periods have since expired, and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove the erstwhile lessees ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, question does not arise.

[Translation]

Recruitment of SCs/STs in Armed Forces

398. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is

much less in three Services of the Armed Forces (Navy, Army and Air Force); and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to give proper representation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Armed Forces ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Selection to all ranks in the Armed Forces is open to all eligible Indian nationals, irrespective of caste, creed, community and religion. As such, there is no reservation quota in favour of any caste, tribe or community.

[English]

Manufacture of Infantry Weapons

399. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has achieved self-sufficiency in manufacture of small arms and ammunition in relation to re-equipping of the infantry,

(b) if so, whether such infantry weapons are comparable with small arms developed and in use by other countries, in efficiency, quality and cost-wise ;